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NEWSBYTES

Salute to OAF troops

Air Force leaders are hosting a celebration Sept. 15 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to recognize the contributions of the total aerospace force team during Operation Allied Force. Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan kick off the event which includes flyovers, static displays and booths spotlighting the team's roles and mission.

AFA exposition

The Air Force Association's Aerospace Technology Exposition is Sept. 13 - 15 in Washington, D.C. This year's exposition includes an Air Force exhibit demonstrating how units will train together as part of an Aerospace Expeditionary Force. More information is available on the Internet at <http://www.afa.org>.

CSAF recognized

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan received the Air Force Sergeants Association Excellence in Military Leadership Award at a ceremony in Reno, Nev., Sept. 2.

The award, one of the AFSA's highest honors, recognizes active duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members and Defense Department civilians who demonstrate superior military leadership and exceptionally meritorious conduct in their service to the Total Force.

Undersecretary swears in

Carol A. DiBattiste was sworn in as the new Undersecretary of the Air Force in a ceremony at the Pentagon Sept. 7, as her mother looked on holding the Bible. Ms. DiBattiste fills a void left by F. Whitten Peters who left the post to become acting Secretary of the Air Force before officially receiving the position. Mr. Peters, Ms. DiBattiste and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan form the top three in Air Force leadership.

Air Force leaders address perceived pay inequities

WASHINGTON — The proposed military pay table reform has stirred controversy over perceived inequities between officer and enlisted pay increases.

Senior Air Force leaders say there is in fact no inequity and the key to understanding the proposed one-time pay table reform is to look at the cumulative effect over any 20-year career vs. a single individual phase point.

The pay table reform is aimed at rewarding performance over longevity, said Lt. Gen. Don Peterson, the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"This reform will also make significant strides toward correcting pay gaps between

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Pay table reform is intended to reward airmen and officers with pay increases associated with promotion instead of longevity, according to officials.

Program gets shot in arm

■ Medical construction plan funding OK'd

By Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy

Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's fiscal 2000 medical military construction plan is on track to continue providing increased accessibility for patients.

According to Maj. Jon Yow, Air Force Medical Program manager, the service received approval for nine projects for the new fiscal year, totaling \$55.3 million. These projects range from a new dental clinic to medical support facilities and warehouses.

"On average over the past few fiscal years, we've received about \$56 million an-

nually, but the current Future Years Defense Plan only averages \$48 million annually, Major Yow said, "so we're really pleased to receive the funds for all the projects we requested for FY00."

He said the major benefit service members will see is increased access to health care via a shift in clinic design.

"Most of our new ambulatory health care clinics will embody an innovative 'Clinic of the Future' concept, which redesigns primary care space in light of evolving changes in health care delivery," Major Yow said.

Under this concept, clinics will locate patient care areas up front and support areas will be located in the back, instead of inte-

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Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>. Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Smoke and mirrors

Reference "Another BRAC round needed", [Sept. 1, 1999]... I agree San Antonio is greatly benefiting from the closure of Kelly, but the Air Force mission is out the window. The three bases picking up the Kelly workload don't have the facilities, people or knowledge to handle the work. ...Production in C-5 aircraft and jet engines is seriously behind schedule. Check it out, but look out for the smoke screens.

Joe L. King
Kelly AFB, Texas

Talk is cheap

The Joint Chiefs testified ... Our personnel are not receiving proper compensation and retirement benefits. So, how do we fix this? The talk (talk is cheap) was get rid of REDUX, with a couple of proposed plans, a proposed 4.8 percent across-the-board pay raise and targeted pay raises for NCOs and mid-level officers. ...why are mid-level officers receiving the higher targeted pay raises? I would also like to know why a 24-year O-9 in today's military requires an additional 3.5 percent pay raise in July 2000—for a grand total increase of \$773.52 per month or a \$9,645.63 increase in base pay? Do we have a retention problem with 24-year O-9s? ...don't ask us why we are leaving early, you already know the answer.

Staff Sgt. Eric A. Brawner
Eglin AFB, Fla.

Pay raise a joke

What a joke! And the thing that angers me the most is not the paltry amount I'll be receiving, but that this was sold as a true pay reform for mid-level NCOs and officers.

Staff Sgt. James E. King
Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia

SGLI an outstanding benefit

Regarding the letter about Servicemember's Group Life Insurance benefits, [Sept. 1], ... The SGLI already does give a "free" \$200,000 benefit for those killed not only in combat but in the line of duty. It is called "double indemnity." ... I checked into one of the wonderful "beat the government SGLI" plans and, because I am a flyer, the cost to me was substantial—\$56 a month for \$150,000. Many external plans also have exemptions for combat duty. For my money, SGLI is the only way to go.

Master Sgt. Brian H. Elliott
McChord AFB, Wash.

Moving woes

I recently found out the Air Force doesn't ship private vehicles for permanent change of station moves within the continental United States. Yet, you can ship a boat under 14 feet in your household goods. This makes absolutely no sense! It seems absolutely ridiculous that my husband and I, a dual-military couple entitled to a joint shipment of 16,000 pounds, will probably use maybe 7,000 pounds, yet can't ship our vehicle.

Senior Airman Raminah Hartke
Los Angeles AFB, Calif.

ONLINE NEWS strives to meet your needs

By Col. Ronald T. Rand
Editor-in-Chief

Six months ago, at the direction of Secretary Peters and General Ryan, we launched U.S. Air Force ONLINE NEWS to provide the entire Air Force family with an official, complete, timely source of news and information each week. Your response speaks volumes for how much the paper was needed: you've downloaded 1.7 million pages from the ONLINE NEWS site in its first 25 weeks of operation, you're now downloading almost 70,000 pages each week, and you're subscribing in droves — more than 22,000 to date.

Each week, those numbers increase. That's good. Of those numbers, 60 percent of our readers come from the .af.mil domain. That's good, too. The message you're

sending is clear: you're hungry for Air Force news and information, and you're turning increasingly to ONLINE NEWS to satisfy that hunger. That's the best news of all.

We're receiving your message, and doing our best to respond to it. We push the envelope each week, trying to cover the events on Capitol Hill and the ongoing initiatives in the personnel community that affect you and your families. We report frankly on real-world Air Force news, both the good and the bad. And we provide you a unique opportunity to voice your opinions openly and widely as contributors to ONLINE NEWS' "Letters" section (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper/letters.htm>).

Your feedback tells us we've hit pretty close to the target over these first six months, and your suggestions (and even some complaints) have resulted directly in changes to the format and/or the content.

But we know we're not there yet...we won't be until every airman is a regular reader of ONLINE NEWS.

To help us get to that point, we need your support. Read the paper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>). Better yet, subscribe at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/subscribe.htm>. Tell your family and friends about it. Share it with those who don't have access. Most importantly, let us know how we're doing by using the feedback form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/feedback.htm>.

We know there's lots of competition for your attention, so we'll do everything in our power to gain your trust: we'll always tell the truth; we'll strive to provide the most accurate, balanced and useful news and information every week; and we'll respond to your needs and wants.

After all, we just produce the paper...it belongs to you.



First Term Airman's Center

■ New program eases airmen into their first assignments

By Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON —

One-stop orientation centers aimed at easing first-term airmen into duty at their first assignment are being established across the Air Force.

Wing officials at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., opened their First Term Airman's Center earlier

this year and call it a great success. Similar centers have opened or soon will open at other bases throughout the Air Force.

Each center is tailored to the base's specific mission and needs and varies in length. However, all offer one-stop in-processing services.

"We opened our doors in February with our first orientation," Master Sgt. Charles W. Dove, Travis FTAC noncommissioned officer in charge, said. Each class at Travis is about four weeks long.

In addition to providing one-stop in-processing, the Travis center offers a structured, comprehensive agenda which allows airmen to become familiar with the base's organizational layout and services, as well as the opportunity to meet airmen who are in different jobs and units across the base, Sergeant Dove said.

Before, airmen would arrive from tech school and be instantly thrown into the job with little chance to become familiar with the base's facilities and services, said the senior NCO, who volunteered for the job to oversee the center.



Airman Basic Katrina Edwards, assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif., is currently attending the base's First Term Airman's Center.

The Travis center is divided into two flights — Extender and Galaxy—each led by a senior airman. "I'm really excited to be able to help my fellow airmen get settled into their assignments," Senior Airman Christopher Raley, Extender flight leader, said.

"I feel I'm making a posi-

tive impact on their lives and setting a good example," Airman Raley said. "I help make sure they get to their appointments and offer a lot of one-on-one attention."

This personalized attention is helpful, according to some of the center's attendees.

"My sponsor told me about the center before I got to Travis," Airman Basic Katrina Edwards, 60th Aerial Port Squadron, said. "I was really nervous at first."

Her nervousness has dissipated since attending the center's course. "I've really enjoyed the interaction with the other airmen," Airman Edwards said. "Getting to know the base and its services is a great benefit. I think this center is necessary for all new airmen."

Airman Basic Joey Lauckner, also from the 60th APS, likes the interaction between the participants.

"I'd say the chance to meet other people and learn about their jobs is the biggest advantage to attending the center," he said.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Air Force leaders address perceived pay inequities

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military service and comparable civilian experience-level positions," he said. "The largest increases in the proposed pay charts are at the same points where the greatest gap between the military and the civilian sector exists."

Under the current pay tables, officers are rewarded for longevity more than promotion. Over the course of a typical career, 37 percent of officer pay raises come from promotions and 63 percent from longevity. The proposal shifts this proportion to 53 percent for promotion and 47 percent for longevity.

"The current proportion of enlisted promotion/longevity raises is roughly 50-50," said the general. "The reform shifts the balance to 57 percent promotion and 43 percent longevity."

"Placing greater emphasis on pay increases associated with promotion better recognizes our career force NCOs and officers for their performance," Gen. Peterson said. "These actions were necessary because previous changes in the pay table had the effect of weighting longevity more heavily than promotion in determining pay increases."

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch said, "This is not an officer versus enlisted issue. Our goal with pay table reform is to reward performance, take care of our people, and provide the best possible compensation package we can."

Editor's note: Look for more on this topic in upcoming issues of Online News.

October pin-ons surge

Hundreds of line officers will benefit from a planned surge in promotion pin-ons in October. The Air Force is slated to promote 500 line officers to major and 250 to lieutenant colonel Oct. 1. This represents 437 more projected promotions for officers currently waiting their turn to pin-on. Over the life of these two promotion lists, more than half the officers waiting to pin-on will do so at least a month earlier than originally scheduled.

The Air Force had originally projected approximately 176 promotions to major and 137 to lieutenant colonel each month through

May 2000. With the surge, those projections will be adjusted to 131 promotions to major and 120 to lieutenant colonel each month.

Anthrax vaccinations

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff received the last in his series of six Anthrax shots while Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters received his fifth anthrax shot. Because of a growing biological threat, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen directed a phased inoculation program, which will have the entire force — including all new recruits — begin receiving the anthrax vaccination in phases between now and 2003.



Theft, crime rise on Internet

WASHINGTON — The Internet has a tremendous potential for enriching the quality of our lives and increasing our standard of living. However, as with many great opportunities, this one is also fraught with peril according to officials at the Air Force of Special Investigations.

"The first step in defending yourself and loved ones on the 'information superhighway' is an understanding of the threat," Lt. Col. Anne Burt, director, special operations division for the AFOSI, said. "Just as in street crime, law enforcement folks can't be everywhere at once on the Net."

Threats on the Internet get harder to catch as traffic violations on the information superhighway expand with the growing number of computer users.

Although computer and telecommunications bugs — hacking, data mischief, theft and copyright violations — haven't changed, the methods of threats and crimes have. Cable modem Internet access, for one, is wreaking havoc for all Defense Department systems according to AFOSI officials.

Because today's typical cable networking configurations are similar to those used in a common office, most neighborhood cable systems look like one big, local area network. This makes it easier for a hacker program to disrupt a computer, according to Colonel Burt. She said the program will run on a Windows NT platform and, if shipped or installed with certain plug-ins, it is nearly impossible to detect.

"The hacker could gain full access into the system as a result," Colonel Burt said. "This access allows the hacker to read the contents of the hard drive, add and delete files and more."

Since cable modem access lines are considered always on, a higher risk of infiltration occurs. However, there is a more common way to contaminate a user's computer, namely by electronic mail.

Mail bombs, password sniffers and spoofing are tools used to invade, destroy, and re-



As more business processes and personal services rely on the Internet, it will become even more important to safeguard against computer crimes like fraud and hacking. Here, Senior Master Sgt Fred Springer and Shuichi Ono review accounting procedures through the Internet.

trieve information. Bombing shuts down a system by flooding a user's mailbox with messages; sniffing records and monitors names logged in which can be used to impersonate authorized users; and spoofers disguise one computer to electronically resemble another computer to gain access to a restricted system.

Additionally, deceptive programs like Trojan horses, and worms and viruses cause malicious computer acts.

But regardless of the infiltration method used, Colonel Burt said there are specific actions individuals can take to provide the best defense against computer crimes and threats:

- do not leave a computer unattended for long periods of time;
- be sensible about opening e-mail attachments;
- know and change passwords frequently;
- shut down a computer system when not in use.

This article is in its entirety online.

Medical construction gets shot in the arm

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grated throughout the clinic.

"The 'Clinic of the Future' implements a patient-centered functional orientation which will optimize patient accessibility and quality assurance," Major Yow explained. Future construction at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and Los Angeles AFB, Calif., will implement this innovative concept.

"We also have projects at overseas bases designed to increase the availability of dental care for family members," he added.

FY00 medical construction projects are:

■ Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.: ambulatory health care clinic (under the "Clinic of the Future" concept);

■ Los Angeles AFB, Calif.: replace medical/dental clinic (under the "Clinic of the Future" concept);

■ Travis AFB, Calif.: wartime readiness materiel warehouse/engineering support facility;

■ Patrick AFB, Fla.: replace logistics warehouse;

■ Moody AFB, Ga.: wartime readiness materiel warehouse;

■ Ramstein AB, Germany: addition to dental clinic;

■ Andrews AFB, Md.: medical logistics facility;

■ Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio: replace occupational health/bioenvironmental engineering office;

■ Lakenheath RAF, England: addition to dental clinic.

Major Yow explained that military construction involves extensive planning. "We currently have about 59 projects that are in the planning, design and construction stage," he said, "with a value of about \$717.6 million."

This article is in its entirety online.



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